

Meeting Minutes
WEST CHARLOTTE STORMWATER UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 15, 2013 – Workshop Meeting
9:00 a.m. – Plizga Residence/Field Trip

Attendees: Henry Killion, Glynn Perkins, Stanley Plizga and Scott Schermerhorn

Absent: Laren Armstrong, Lawrence Harrod

County: Judith Nothdurft and Sandy Wright

Guests: Sign-in sheet attached

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

This meeting was a workshop meeting with a site visit to the proposed carp barrier locations. Christopher Beers of Johnson Engineering, the contracted Project Manager for the Rotonda West Carp Barrier project and Michael Sowinski, Biological Scientist with Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) were present to review and discuss the locations.

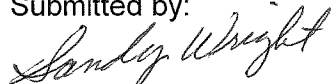
Grass Carp Barriers – There was discussion regarding the weirs and the locations of the carp barriers. The Committee is not happy with the carp barrier construction plans designed by Johnson Engineering, stating they are too elaborate and expensive. There are less expensive fish barriers available that could be used, however they were not given any other options. Mr. Sowinski stated the State Statutes provide authorization to FWC to approve carp barriers and determine how many fish should be released. FWC works with other agencies upon request however, FWC has the final approval. The County will determine the release location of the carp. Mr. Sowinski stated that FWC does not make specific recommendations on the type of barrier that should be used. The fish prefer flowing water and typically migrate to those locations. The best time to release fish is during the cool weather months of November through March or April depending on the water temperatures. Mr. Sowinski stated salt water is considered a barrier for grass carp. The carp can only live for a brief period in salt water; they will either try to avoid it or eventually die in the salt water. A field trip was taken by all present at the meeting to the following locations:

1. White March Inlet – FWC stated that no barrier would be required at this location.
2. Weir No. 5A – FWC stated a barrier would be required.
3. Weir's No. 1 & No. 2 – FWC recommended barriers, however they would not be required.
4. Weir 6A – FWC stated a barrier would be required.
5. Weir No. 7/Buck Creek – FWC stated a barrier would be required.

The field trip ended back at the Plizga Residence. The Committee stated they were very pleased with the site visit. There was discussion regarding the severity of the water lettuce growing at the Weir No. 6A location. The Committee asked whose responsibility it was to clean the waterway of debris & vegetation. The area with the water lettuce is State property with a possible maintenance easement granted to the County. Ms. Nothdurft will follow-up. Mr. Sowinski will send an email to all that attended the field trip with his recommendations on the carp barrier locations. He conveyed it would be best to purchase 12"-14" fish even though they may cost more to avoid the carp being eaten by birds and other fish. Construction types and material options were discussed. The Committee agreed that the barriers should be installed in a horizontal direction and made of stainless steel. Mr. Sowinski stated the gap between the bars should be at 1 ½ inches to allow for adequate water flow.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by:



Sandy Wright
Public Works Department

[illegible]